

January 22, 2002

Via Electronic Filing

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentation in CC Docket No. 96-150

Dear Ms. Salas:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, the Competitive Telecommunications Association ("CompTel") hereby gives notice that on January 18, 2002, its representative had separate telephone conversations with Commissioner Kevin Martin, and Marsha MacBride, Chief of Staff to Chairman Powell, to discuss CompTel's Opposition to Verizon's Petition for Reconsideration and Request for Stay of the Commission's January 10 Order denying Verizon's request for confidential treatment of its Section 272 biennial audit results.

In both conversations, CompTel reiterated the points made in its Opposition pleading, which was also filed on January 18, 2002. Specifically, CompTel explained that Verizon has met neither the legal standard for reconsideration, or a stay, of a Commission order. CompTel further explained that the Commission is under a statutory mandate to make the results of the Section 272 biennial audit available to the public. If public access is restricted by use of a protective order, as Verizon requests, then the transparency Congress unambiguously intended to impose on the BOC's relationship with their interLATA affiliates will be vitiated. Protective orders, CompTel explained, are plainly incompatible with the public disclosure and comment mandated under Section 272(d)(2).

Representing CompTel was H. Russell Frisby, Jr., President, CompTel.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Lee
Vice President,
Regulatory Affairs